Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that Manjeri is the headquarters of Ernad taluk where the population is comparatively poor and the so-called rich people can afford to have private doctors for treatment and are not generally interested in these matters, will the Government see that the bed-strength of this hospital is increased so as to help the poor peasantry of that vast taluk?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" This hospital has got a bed-strength of 45. As soon as circumstances permit, the bed-strength will be increased."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" The Hon. Minister has been pleased to tell us on a previous occasion that the improvement of taluk hospitals will be taken up immediately after the problem of improving district hospital is tackled. May I know whether under the ensuing Second Five-Year Plan the Government are going to implement that assurance?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There is a proposal to take over all taluk headquarters hospitals as early as possible."

Retrenchment of workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited.

* 1392 Q.—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation from the General Secretary of the Madurai Motor Labourers' Union on 19th December 1954 regarding the dismissal of five workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The representation is under the consideration of the Government."

Reconstruction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river.

* 1393 Q.—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any memorandum in 1954 from the people of Kumaramputhur village, Walluvanad, Malabar, regarding the construction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river at Karopadam;

(*b*) if so, whether any investigation was ordered and estimates prepared; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.